

News & Articles

CDC: Reserve H7N9 Testing for Severely Ill Patients

In a June 7, 2013 Health Alert Network (HAN) update, the CDC modified its advice for testing patients for suspected H7N9 influenza infections, suggesting that clinicians test only patients who have illnesses that require hospitalization. [MORE>>](#)

HHS Issues EUA Declaration for Additional Preparedness Measures for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus

On May 29, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius signed a declaration that circumstances exist to justify an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) so that HHS agencies can take additional Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV, formerly called "novel coronavirus") preparedness measures. The secretary's declaration is a necessary first step in the legal and regulatory process that allows the FDA to swiftly authorize the use of new laboratory diagnostic test kits designed to detect MERS-CoV. CDC will share the MERS-CoV test kit domestically with qualified laboratories. The EUA does not indicate that an actual public health emergency exists in the United States. At this time, there are no reported cases of MERS-CoV in the United States. Because this is a new type of coronavirus, FDA had not previously developed and cleared a specific diagnostic kit. CDC released a summary and key points about MERS-CoV on May 28. More information about MERS-CoV, including the latest case counts, is available on CDC's website. [MORE>>](#)

Local Health Department Capacity for Community Engagement and Its Implications for Disaster Resilience

Investigators interviewed practitioners from seven local health departments about which conditions have advanced or inhibited community engagement in public health emergency preparedness. Results showed that supportive agency leadership and culture, sufficient staffing and programmatic funding, interested and willing partners, and external triggers enabled the local health departments' involvement of community residents and groups in emergency preparedness. [MORE>>](#)



Medical Intelligence Center is Key in Bombing Response

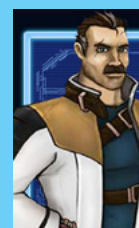
The Medical Intelligence Center coordinated services needed by those affected by the Boston Marathon attacks such as helping reconnect victims with their families, and putting people in touch with grief counselors. [MORE>>](#)

All That Stuff Called Debris

Before disaster survivors can even think about rebuilding their homes, schools or hospitals, the debris needs to be picked up and removed. Ever wonder how they do it? [MORE>>](#)

Disaster Preparedness Video Game for Kids (grades 1-8)

Created by the American College of Emergency Physicians through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA, Disaster Hero, teaches kids about home disaster preparedness in a fun and engaging way. Players can choose



from a variety of larger-than-life heroes to compete in mini-games while they learn about preparing for earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes. This internet-based game teaches kids (grades 1-8), families, and

educators how to stay safe and healthy in emergency situations. DisasterHero.com also offers downloadable resources and links to learn more. The game is available online or on CD-ROM for free. For more information or to play the game, visit: www.DisasterHero.com.

Editor's Note: This video game is kid tested, mom approved. I have three video game-crazy boys at home (ages 11, 8, and 5), who were totally bummed when I came home one night and MADE them play video games! Seriously though, they all enjoyed the game. The 11-year old, really picked up on the preparedness information, more so than the 8 and 5-year olds. And while the younger ones focused more on the game play, it did open up an opportunity to talk with them about what our family would do in a similar emergency.

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Research

Nuclear War between Israel and Iran: Lethality Beyond the Pale

In Conflict and Health researchers detail the medical consequences of a nuclear war between Israel and Iran. The authors used several different data sets and models to calculate the estimated medical damage of a nuclear attack on three Israeli cities and 18 Iranian cities. The research showed population density was a factor in number of injuries and casualties due to the blast. Some of the other consequences include lack of adequate medical care, a broad base of lingering mental health issues, a devastating loss of municipal infrastructure, long-term disruption of economic, educational, and other essential social activity, and a breakdown in law and order. The full study is available online. [MORE>>](#)

Parallel Patterns of Increased Virulence in a Recently Emerged Wildlife Pathogen

Researchers in PLoS Biology show the first empirical-based tracking of virulence of a new disease in an animal species. They utilized 130 house finches from the west and east sides of the U.S. that had never been exposed to the bacterium *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*. They inoculated the finches and took samples over time to assess the virulence of the bacterium. The research showed rapid increases in pathogen virulence on both coasts after the bacterium infected the host population. They found that virulence and pathogen load evolve together, and may be a proxy for transmission potential, among isolates of *M. gallisepticum*. The full study is available online. [MORE>>](#)

Pandemic Influenza Viruses — Hoping for the Road Not Taken

Authors in a New England Journal of Medicine Perspective article discuss the evolution of pandemic influenza viruses. Pandemic influenza viruses evolve from wild bird viruses. However, the authors argue that even though any wild bird influenza virus could become the next pandemic, not all of them do. They cite that the evolutionary path of influenza viruses is not a straightforward path of mutations that allow them to infect humans. The authors conclude that the current influenza threats of H5N1 and H7N9 should be watched carefully. The full article is available online. [MORE>>](#)

Social Factors as Modifiers of Hurricane Irene Evacuation Behavior in Beaufort County, NC

In PLoS Currents Disasters study if different types of social factors had an effect in Hurricane Irene evacuation behavior. They selected 205 residents from the Beaufort County, NC area for rapid-response interviews. In the interviews they were asked about whether they evacuated before Hurricane Irene and why. The research showed that three social factors (social control, social cohesion, and social capital) were related to evacuation behavior before Hurricane Irene. The researchers found that using these social factors in communicating to groups that need to evacuate an area may promote more people to evacuate. The full article is available online. [MORE>>](#)

Pandemic Influenza Risk Management WHO Interim Guidance

The World Health Organization released new guidance on pandemic influenza. This new guide replaces the 2009 Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response: a WHO guidance document. The new guidance contains a new global pandemic phase chart that gives more detail on response. The document is available online. [MORE>>](#)

Handwashing Practices in a College Town Environment

In the Journal of Environmental Health, researchers from Michigan State University study how many people properly wash their hands in a college town. They positioned 12 research



assistants in twelve different restroom locations to observe 3,749 instances of handwashing. Their research showed only 5% of people washed their hands properly. They found that the condition of the sink was correlated with whether or not hands were washed. If the sink was dirty people were less likely to wash their hands in it. They also found that many people did not use soap when they were washing their hands. The full article and a YouTube video are available online. [MORE>>](#)

The Michigan Update

Region 7 Healthcare-Public Health Combined Michigan Volunteer Registry Deployment Exercises

This year, the Healthcare Preparedness (HPP) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) programs participated in two Michigan Volunteer Registry (MVR) deployment exercises in the region. The exercises were used to test the MVR messaging system as a mechanism to bring pre-selected volunteers in for preplanned events. The successful use of the volunteer registry for actual deployment was demonstrated in exercises that took place in January, and most recently in May of 2013.

The volunteer registry was used during the MVR conference held on January 10, 2013. The region 7 health care coalition sent out a call to 346 general volunteers within the region one month prior, inviting volunteers to attend an informational session at the University Center in Gaylord. In a recruitment effort, volunteers were given a challenge: bring with them other potential volunteers. Participants learned more about how their regional health care coalition team and emergency preparedness coordinators (EPC) help to prepare the region for all-hazards response.

Of the 346 registry volunteers contacted through the MVR, 38 responded and 34 attended. During the hour-long luncheon conference in January, volunteers were given an overview of the HPP and PHEP programs along with important information of how they, as volunteers in Michigan, can serve a vital role in an emergency situation. Volunteers were anxious to learn how they could be useful in the community. The conference also generated several new volunteers, who signed up on site. Information was given about the forming of a mobile medical field team.

After the January volunteer conference, in the spirit of grant alignment, the HPP and PHEP programs worked together to provide volunteers for the May 9 mass casualty training that was a part of the HPP-sponsored Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS) class offered at Camp Grayling. The Region 7 HPP office sent out a volunteer request for mock victims and the PHEP team sent out a reminder message using the MVR system one week prior to the event. Volunteers served as mock victims to provide a more realistic training environment for the ADLS students. Recruitment information was again provided about the mobile medical field team. Seventeen medical professionals expressed their interest in being part of the team.

Both the Region 7 health care coalition team and the Region 7 EPCs learned a great deal from the use of the MVR. The exercises reinforced the commitment and value of volunteers and their potential to serve a significant role in disaster medical response. The January and May use of the MVR messaging system provided the team at OPHP with feedback on important improvements that could be made to the system. For more information about this exercise, please contact: Gary Rapelje, Region 7 Regional Coordinator, Medical Disaster Preparedness Network at rc@miregion7.com

Tools & Resources

Learn Valuable Lessons about the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) in Five Minutes

Find out how your LHD can benefit from collaborative SNS partnerships by watching these 12 easy-to-digest five-minute videos. As an Ignite Session during the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit, "Connecting the Dots between SNS and Collaborative Partnerships: The 12 Most Valuable Lessons Learned" brought together presenters from across the country to share their ideas with the audience in five minutes with 20 slides. [MORE>>](#)



FEMA Releases 2013 National Preparedness Report

FEMA and its partners recently released the 2013 National Preparedness Report, an annual status report on the nation's progress toward reaching the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. Overall, the report found that the nation continues to make progress building preparedness in key areas and identified several significant areas of national strength. The report also identified areas for national improvement in enhancing the resilience of infrastructure systems and maturing the role of public-private partnerships. [MORE>>](#)

Public Health Laboratories: Leveraging Partnerships to Strengthen Preparedness & Response

APHL recently released a report that summarizes survey data from the CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Fiscal Year 2011. The report also provides a snapshot of laboratories in action highlighting their value in protecting the American people. [MORE>>](#)

Fire Readiness for Oregon's Youngest Residents

Oregon's Community Resilience program partnered with the Oregon Employment Department's Child Care Division to develop an emergency and disaster response packet for registered child care centers. The kits are an award-winning, multi-media fire safety program designed for young children that includes checklists for every natural disaster, weather event and human-generated crisis. [MORE>>](#)



Training & Events

Communications Webinar Series

NACCHO and the CDC have joined forces to help local health departments strengthen their communications capacity. Explore marketing and branding, message clarity, new media, and evaluation. For more information, visit the NACCHO website ([HERE](#)) or contact Alisa Blum, Director of Media and Public Relations at ablum@naccho.org.

Webinar Schedule:

Communicating Public Health: Why Do We Have to Market Something Everyone Should Already Want?

June 19, 2013

3:00 PM (Eastern)

Presenter: Fred Fridinger, DrPH, chief, CDC Strategic and Proactive Marketing Branch

You Know What You're Talking About, but Does Your Audience? CDC's New Clear Communication Index and How to Use It

July 17, 2013

3:00 PM (Eastern)

Presenter: Cynthia Baur, PhD, CDC Senior Advisor for Health Literacy
New Communication Channels: What They Are, Why They Are Here to Stay, and Why You Need to be There. CDC Makes It Easy for You

August 14, 2013

3:00 PM (Eastern)

Presenter: Amy Heldman, MPH, CDC Social Media Team Lead

Building Our Understanding of Health Communication Evaluation

September 18, 2013

3:00 PM (Eastern)

Presenter: Jim Weaver, PhD, MPH, CDC Senior Health Communication Scientist, Evaluation Expert

Webinar: Planning for the Next Pandemic: Crunching the Numbers on H1N1

June 19, 2013

2:00-3:00 PM (Eastern)

This NACCHO webinar will highlight the findings from a recent retrospective study that explored hospital surge during the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. Study findings to be discussed during the webinar include: magnitude of H1N1 surge in U.S. hospitals and emergency departments, impact of H1N1 on surge on in-hospital quality, and characteristics of hospitals associated with surge. This webinar is intended to help local health departments and healthcare facilities to better predict, plan for, and respond to future pandemics. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

Webinar: United We Stand, Divided We Fall: Developing and Implementing National Guidance and Policy

June 24, 2013

1:00 - 2:00 PM (Eastern)

Speakers: Sally Phillips, RN, PhD, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Health Affairs (OHA); Edward Gabriel, MPA, EMT-P, CEM, CBCP, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), HHS. Learn about federal efforts to unify science and practical policy in the development of national policy and guidance for biological events. Topics include anthrax policies, biosurveillance strategies and initiatives, engagement with state and local stakeholders, and successful collaborative activities between DHS OHA and HHS ASPR. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

Webinar: Emergency Management and Public Health Preparedness

June 26, 2013

1:00 - 2:00 PM (Eastern)

Speakers: Todd Talbert, Associate Director for Program Planning and Development, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Raphael "Ray" Barishansky, Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Connecticut Department of Health; Debbi Parker, Preparedness Coordinator, Waco-McLennon County (TX) Public Health District; Alicia Hernandez, Program Administrator- Nursing Division, Waco-McLennon County (TX) Public Health District. Discover how to increase collaboration between emergency management and public health preparedness initiatives. Topics include federal perspectives on the issues and local experiences between local EMS and public health during emergencies. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response

July 7-8, 2013

Arlington, VA

The CDC and the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) are offering a two-day Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response

(EHTER) workshop for environmental health professionals. Topics include: disaster management, responder safety & health, safe water in emergencies, food safety, wastewater, and sheltering. For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).

**Hospital Volunteer Management and Credentialing Conference
September 4, 2013, and
October 7, 2013
Lansing, MI**

Registration is now open for our two Hospital and Volunteer Management and Credentialing Conferences. They will be held September 4, 2013, in Lansing at the Lexington Hotel and October 7, 2013, in Traverse City at the Great Wolf Lodge. Hospital Medical Staff Services, Human Resources Staff, and Emergency Preparedness Coordinators are invited to attend. Representatives from Connecticut, California, and Michigan will be speaking on emergency credentialing and volunteer management plans. Each Michigan healthcare coalition region must be represented at one or both of these conferences. Conference attendees will be encouraged to meet with their regional representatives and ask questions throughout the day. For more information and to register, go to <https://MI.TRAIN.org>, enter Course ID: 1043072. For questions, contact Jennifer Tucker at tuckerj2@michigan.gov.

FDA Offers Updated Food Defense Courses

The food industry plays an integral part in protecting the nation's food infrastructure. Food Defense 101 provides training in preparedness against an intentional attack against our food supply. Food Defense 101 offers four courses that provide an understanding of and guidance for developing a Food Defense Plan(s) based on a common sense approach. For more information, click [HERE](#).

The four courses available are:

- Food Defense Awareness for Professionals;
- Food Defense Awareness for Frontline Employees;
- FDA Regulations; and
- ALERT, for owners and operators of food facilities, to help them protect their facilities from the threat of intentional contamination.

Archived Webinar: Engaging in Public Health Surveillance beyond the LHD

The archived NACCHO webinar "Big Data: Engaging in Public Health Surveillance beyond the Confines of the Local Health Department" featured innovative examples of how information technology and social media are improving public health surveillance. For more information, click [HERE](#).



Mailing Address:
Office of Public Health Preparedness
Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>

This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 1U90TP000528-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.

